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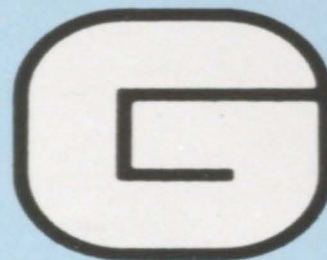
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This is a Profile Publication created and produced for
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AN EXCITING FUTURE

MERRILLVILLE

Once the thriving stop-off point for wagon trains headed west, Merrillville is echoing its early history with a dynamic shout. Merrillville has made itself known. With surprising energy, the town has rapidly left its rural beginnings to become a major regional center of commerce. It is more than a stopping-off point. Merrillville is the focal point of the map.

Its thriving corporate headquarters, sparkling new residential areas, large shopping malls and fantastic convention-entertainment center attract visitors from throughout the nation and beyond.

This decade will see an exciting period of continued growth. With an estimate that Merrillville's population could reach an amazing 100,000 in 20 years, planning provides for expansion of light industry, commercial centers, professional facilities and residential areas.





Merrillville has guided its phenomenal growth through careful planning. A master plan has laid out future development creating a pleasant mix of suburban living with business to maintain a well-balanced economic base. Improvements such as widening streets and the expansion of sanitary facilities meets demands of a growing community. High visibility of its professional police department promotes a secure environment. Dedicated volunteers staff a fire department with modern facilities.

The vitality of new growth is evident everywhere. There are stunning, convenient shopping centers such as Southlake Mall, a large urban mall with 135 stores, and Century Mall with room for 45 stores; magnificent churches; an architecturally unique medical center and professional offices.

Merrillville continues to develop a high quality of life for its residents. The Holiday Plaza brings the nation's top performers to its' modern entertainment complex. Readers can lose themselves in a wealth of resource materials available in a modern county library. Symphony orchestras present local concerts. The beauty of nature is at hand in varied parks and nearby agriculture lands provide a pleasing atmosphere in which to work and live.

Enjoying its location as the center of Northwest Indiana, its growth and its proximity to metropolitan Chicago, Merrillville is establishing its identity as a leader in leisure-living and commercial-industrial development.



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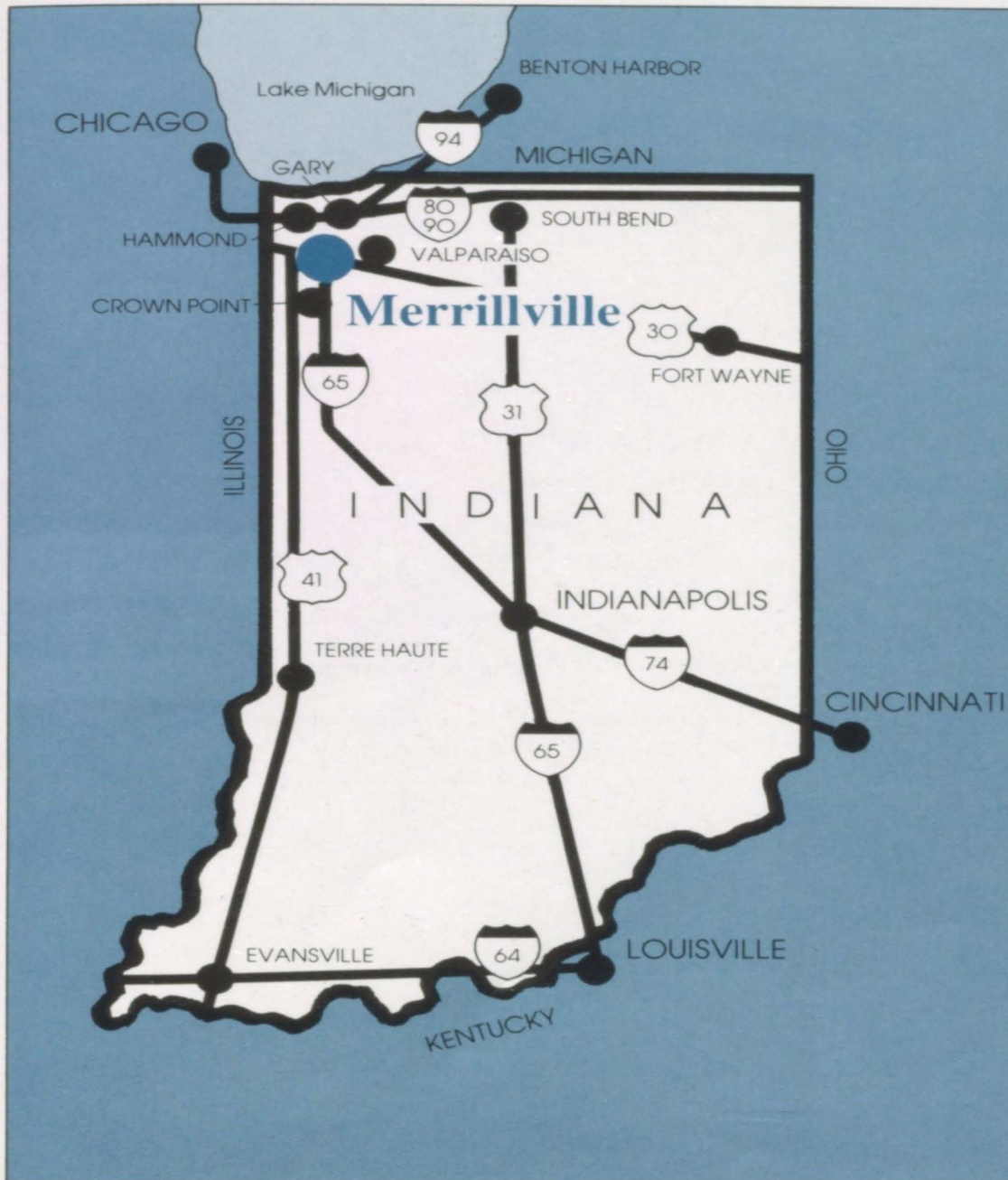
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LOCATOR MAP

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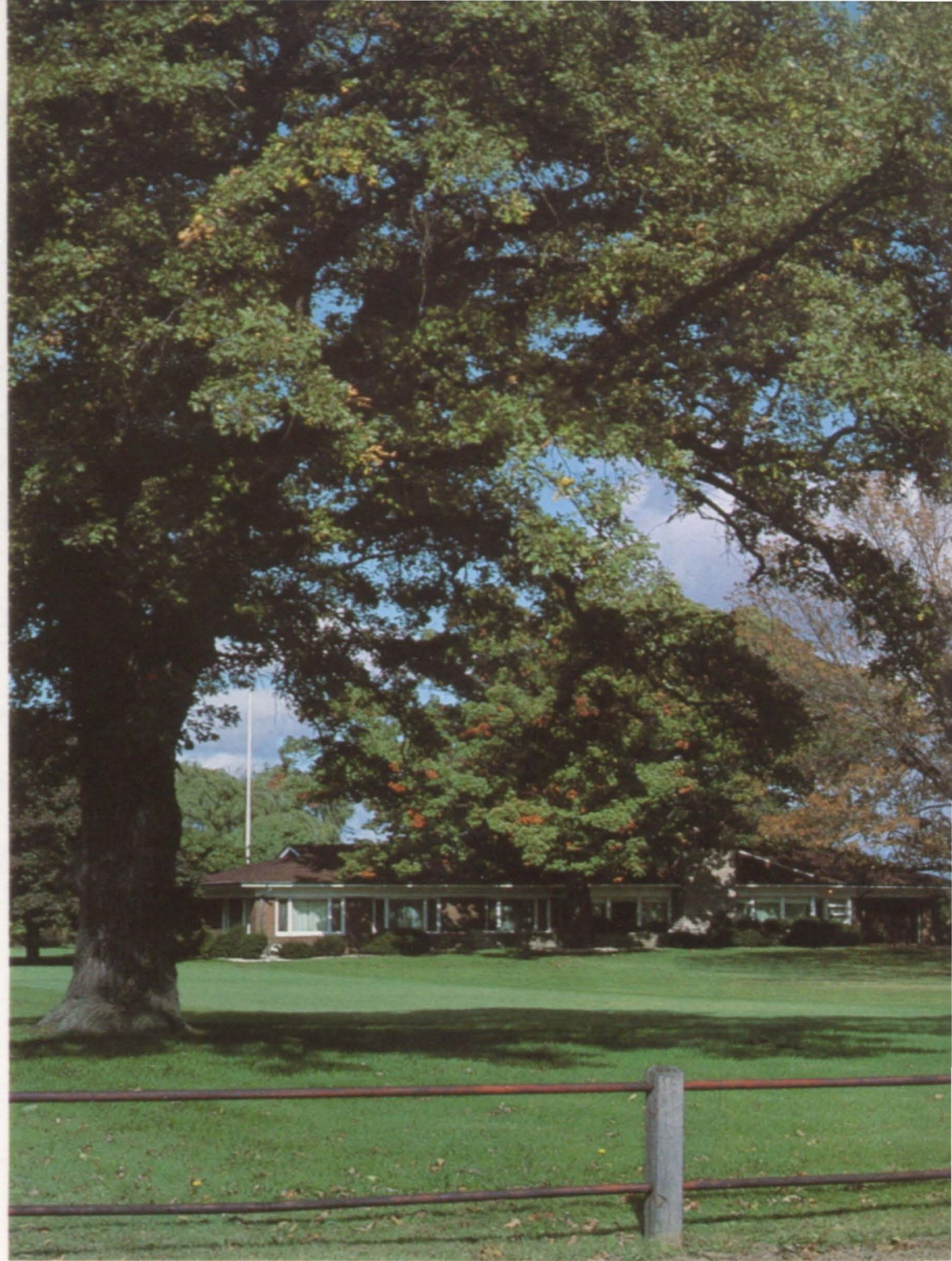
ATTRACTIVE LIVING

H O M E S

Merrillville is a center for varied styles in living. Its residential areas run the range of older, historic settings, to sleek, modern designs. With prices competitive to its suburban surroundings, Merrillville offers housing from a broad spectrum of styles. It is becoming a major center of residential growth with plans in place for expansion of established subdivisions and development of new neighborhoods.

With 90 percent of Merrillville homes owner-occupied, the pride and responsibility of ownership is evident in well-groomed lawns, carefully sculptured gardens, seasonal decorations on front doors, and the friendly welcome of a fresh bouquet of flowers at a window. An increasing number of condominiums and multi-family units offer an attractive alternative to owning a home.

Names of the community's subdivisions and planned unit developments often reflect the pleasant suburban atmosphere en-





joyed by Merrillville residents. Yet, the proximity to the amenities of urban living adds to the desirability of life in the community.

Agreeing growth and excellence go hand in hand, community leaders have protected property values through careful planning, zoning and subdivision ordinances. Continued maintenance of the comfortable friendly lifestyle and attractive appearance offers residents and newcomers the opportunity to develop their own rewarding lifestyles in Merrillville.



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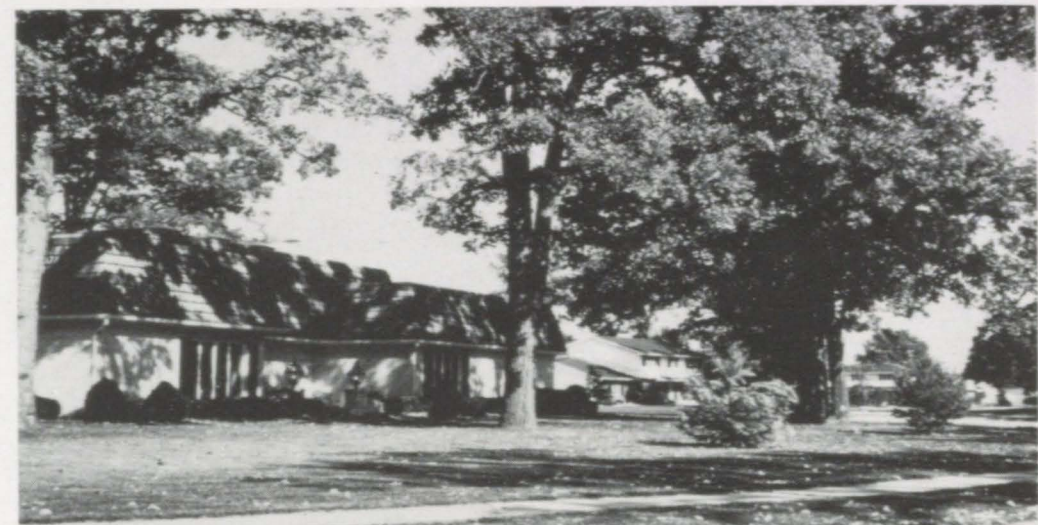
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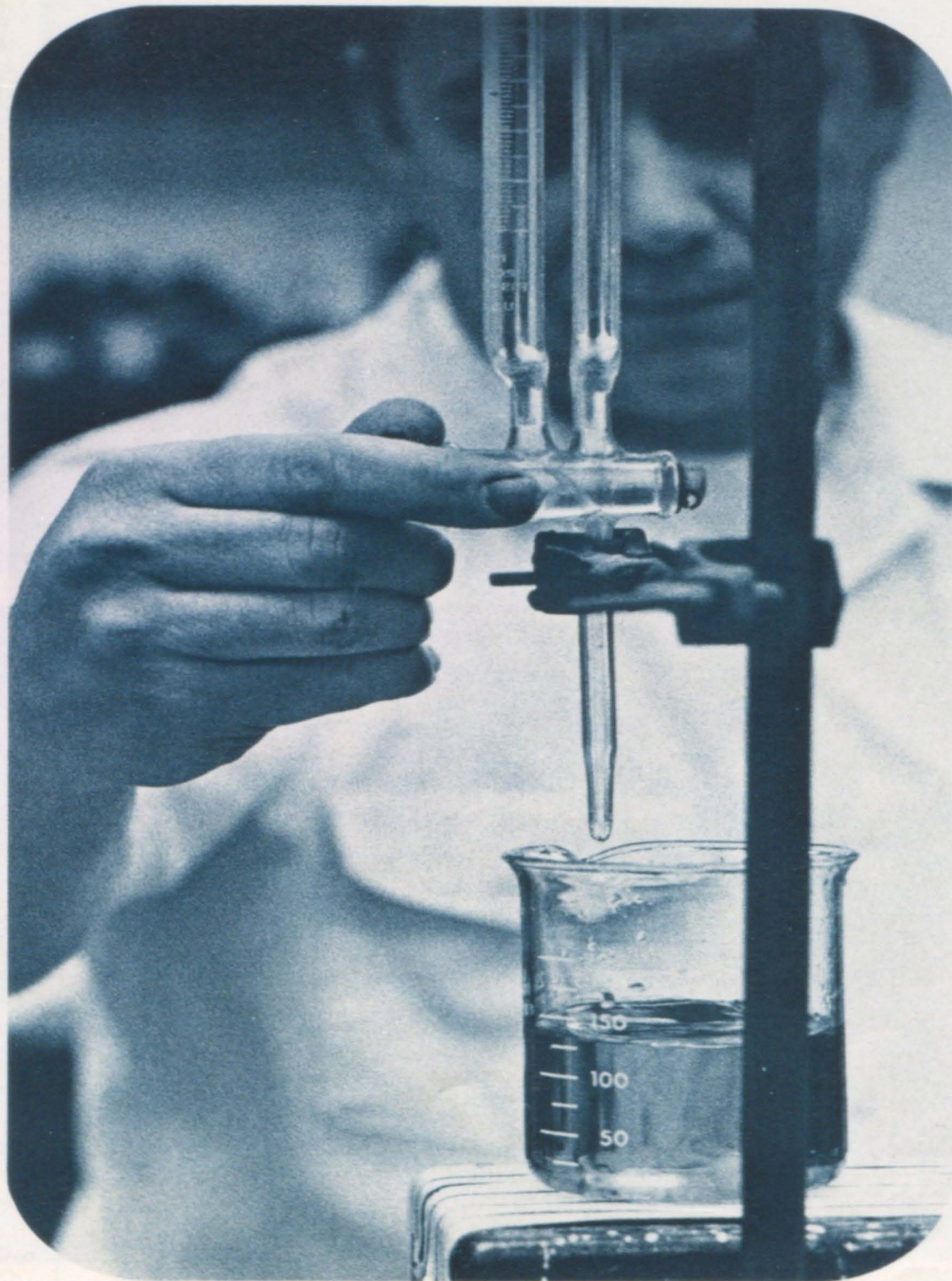
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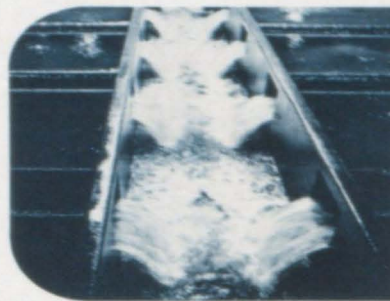
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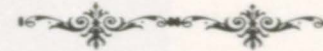
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A FULL CALENDAR

RECREATION





Merrillville residents find their recreational calendars filled with a variety of activities offered by town, township and county park and recreation departments. The town is concentrating its development of park facilities in developing areas of the community and has a full-time park and recreation department which provides a broad range of activities for all ages.

A musical drama program circulates among various neighborhood parks in the town. Local talent provides one-act plays, folk singing and musical skits.

Other activities include track meets, ping pong, golf and tennis tournaments and field trips. A fun program is family roller skating. There are also adult men and women's volleyball and softball leagues and a men's basketball league.

Ross township offers a variety of recreational opportunities at Hidden Lake, Olind Skinner and Independence parks. The township also operates a community swimming pool.

Also active in and around Merrillville is the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department. It offers more than 3,000 acres of scenic woodlands and beautiful open spaces, along with passive enjoyment at the Stoney Run, Deep River, Buckley Homestead, Lemon Lake and Grand Kankakee Marsh parks.

The county offers golf at Turkey Creek Junction Golf Course



Opposite page: Turkey Creek Junction Golf Course

Center: Abundant playground facilities promote creative play

Above left: Holidome provides year-round recreation

Above: Festivities at the nearby Buckley Farmfest

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RECREATION

Right: Hidden Lake Park

*Bottom: Coho fishing on nearby
Lake Michigan*

*Below: Picturesque ponds and lakes
dot the Merrillville area*



in Merrillville and canoeing at Deep River and Grand Kankakee parks. Everything from snowmobile trails, bridle trails, nature study areas, physical fitness runs and fishing to archery, nature photography blinds, and cross country skiing are available in selected county parks.

At Deep River, near Merrillville, the John Woods Grist Mill Museum and Interpretive Nature Center attracts visitors from across the state. The Indiana Arts Commission also sponsors arts in the parks workshops there during which pottery and handloom weaving are taught.

The county park system is also the scene of special events such as the camping and backpacking exposition at Stoney Run; orienteering at Deep River; sky interpretation at Stoney Run; hobby craft fair at Lemon Lake; a quilting bee at Deep River; the Buckley Farmfest, a re-creation of the farming heritage; and the Kappa

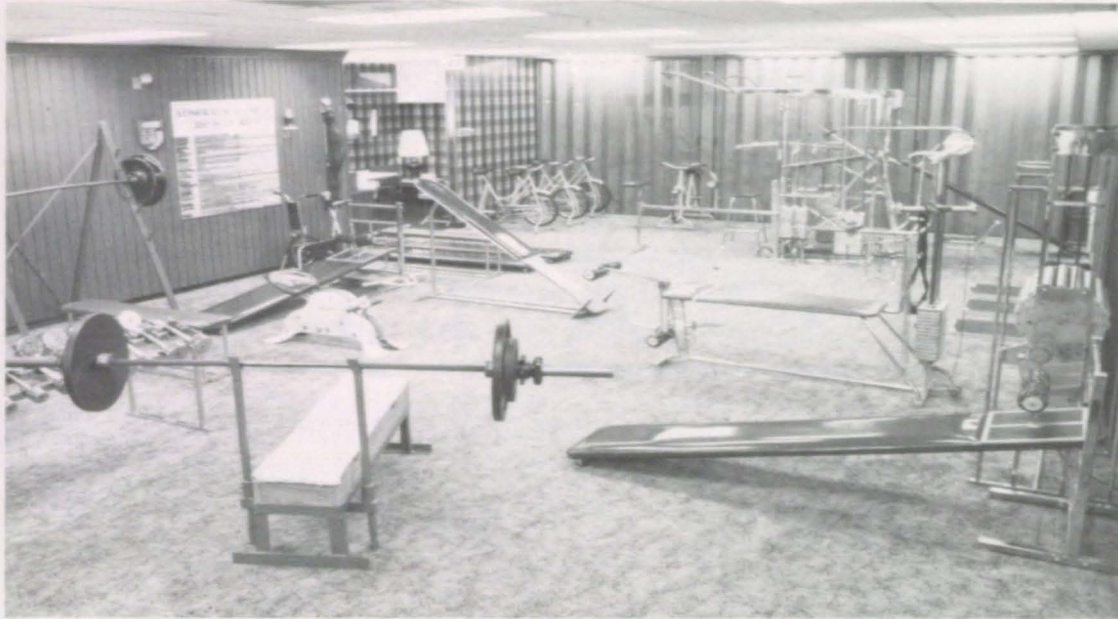
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MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410



Winter Karnival at Lemon Lake, featuring everything from inner tubing to hot air ballooning.

Individual recreational pursuits are encouraged at area golf courses, including Summertree, Broadmoor and Turkey Creek Junction. Two local bowling alleys with 88 automatic lanes draw a large following of avid bowlers. Private tennis and racquetball clubs provide indoor and outdoor courts and health facilities. Roller skating is also available at a local rink.

A highlight of the community is the Merrillville Community Recreation and Youth Center, offering varied sporting activities for youth of the area. It boasts a football field and five baseball diamonds.

In nearby Crown Point, the Southlake YMCA offers a wide range of program opportunities.



Above left: Exercise room at Admiral Health Club

Above: Nature trail, Deep River Park

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IT'S IDEAL LOCATION



At the apex of a rapidly expanding urban area in Northwest Indiana, Merrillville is ideally situated with vast cultural and recreational resources from fine universities to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The rich farmlands of southern Lake County at the town's perimeter belie the fact the world's largest steel-making complex stretches along the Lake Michigan shoreline to the north. Located 30 minutes from the myriad resources of the Chicago metropolitan area, Merrillville enjoys an envied proximity to other major Midwestern industrial markets.

Its advantageous location gives Merrillville multiple-accessibility. The intersection of I-65 and U.S. 30 serves as a strategic link to the entire national highway system. Interstate 65 offers access to I-80, I-94, I-90, and U.S. 6 directly to the north. The famed Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) bisects important north-south U.S. 41 and in-town state roads 53 (Broadway) and 55 (Taft). For its part, the town is ever-improving access routes through the community.

Residents and businessmen find air travel convenient at four important regional airports. The busy Porter County Airport at nearby Valparaiso offers commuter service with daily flights between Michigan City, Valparaiso and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The Porter County facility also provides complete services for large corporate jets and private aircraft.

Air services and facilities are also available at Griffith and Gary airports. Tri-State Motor Coaches several times daily wisks passengers from Merrillville to the international terminals at O'Hare.

Nearly a dozen mainline railroads connect shippers in the area with vital commercial regions while more than 40 truck lines offer overnight service to key cities within 300 miles of Merrillville. In adjacent communities, commuters get fast service on South Shore

Line trains running from South Bend to Chicago. Amtrack service is available in nearby Dyer.

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VARIED AND FUN

S H O P P I N G

An infinite variety and availability of quality merchandise and diverse services have made Merrillville a regional commercial magnet. With a trade influence stretching more than 50 miles in any direction and reaching more than three million potential customers, Merrillville's business community is the leader in commercial activity in northern Indiana.

As a result, shopping in Merrillville can only add up to a pleasurable experience.

Shoppers find major malls, neighborhood centers and intriguing small shops throughout the community which provide a variety in selection for discriminating buyers.

Two regional shopping centers, Southlake Mall and Century Mall, offer nearly 200 stores. They are complimented by neighborhood centers such as Broadway, K-Mart, Crossroads, 80th Place, D'Cameo, and Georgetown plazas, the Twin Towers Shopping Mall and Liberty Square.



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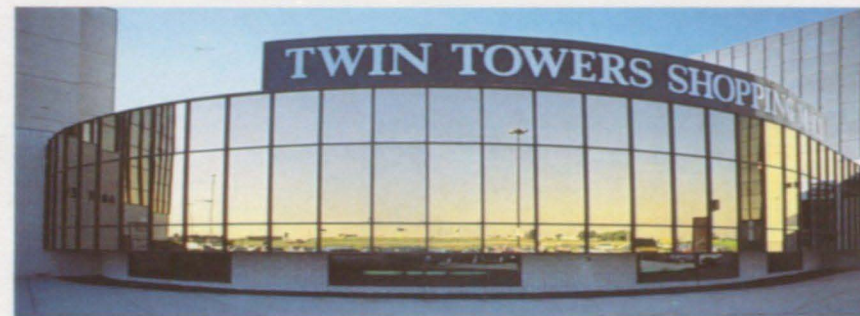
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*Opposite page: Southlake Mall
Top: Century Mall
Above: Twin Towers Shopping Mall
Left: Carriage House Court Shops*



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Above: Broadway Plaza



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Additional shopping centers are under development, including Westlake Plaza which will be a 150,000 square foot, fully enclosed center.

One of the largest shopping centers in Indiana with 1,300,000 square feet, Southlake Mall is totally enclosed with two levels at Merrillville's eastern border. Its modern, spacious design features comfortable carpeted rest areas, the visual beauty of trees and plants and the airy feeling of overhead skylights. More than 130 stores join major retailers, L.S. Ayers and Co., Carson, Pirie Scott and Co., J.C. Penney and Sears, Roebuck and Co., in providing one-stop shopping.

Anchored by two major department stores, Goldblatt's and Montgomery Ward, Century Mall opened in 1979. This 440,000 square foot enclosed mall provides shoppers a potential of 45 stores. Planned expansion may add an additional major depart-



ment store. Carpeted walkways, decorative flowers and trees under a vaulted skylight invite shoppers to stay and browse.

In addition to the prestigious shops found in large shopping complexes, unique quality shops are clustered throughout the area.

With large grocery and department stores meeting the necessary requirements of shoppers, the small shops concentrate on special, often hard-to-find items.

Top left: Southlake Mall
Top right: Liberty Square
Above: Century Mall

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THE VALUE OF A GOOD EDUCATION

S C H O O L S

The well-educated population of Merrillville emphasizes the importance of a good education. Responding to this requirement in a variety of ways, the Merrillville Community School Corporation stresses classroom basics complemented by unique educational opportunities, special services and the cultural arts.

Serving all of Merrillville and students within the Ross Township boundaries, the Merrillville School Corporation consists of eight facilities including a high school and two junior high schools.

During the elementary years, emphasis in the primary grades centers on basic communication skills, especially reading and handwriting. Learning centers featuring individualized instruction are in more than half the classrooms to encourage youngsters in



*Above: Main entrance to
Merrillville High School
Left: Merrillville High
computer class*



developing skills. A remedial reading specialist works in all elementary buildings.

Merrillville schools have maintained a "middle of the road" approach to education, stressing the basics while selecting methods from current trends and adding them to proven ideas and methods.

Merrillville High School offers a comprehensive program with educational opportunities for any interest. College preparatory courses include analytic geometry and calculus, advanced foreign language and studies in government, law and the individual and cultural minorities. Skills in a variety of trades from auto mechanics to graphic arts and computer technology are taught in the schools with additional vocation opportunities available at the Gary Career Center. Through the vocational building trades program, students build a house with the financial and professional advice of school and business volunteers who make up a not-for-profit corporation.

A variety of special programs highlight the Merrillville schools' educational activities. Special education programs for handicapped students are coordinated at all grade levels with the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative.

Courses in English, philosophy, communications, sociology and psychology are available on a college freshman level in the high school. Other college level courses are offered through the audio



Clockwise from above: Andrean High School; Planetarium at Pierce Junior High; Fidler Grade School

Color Art Studio

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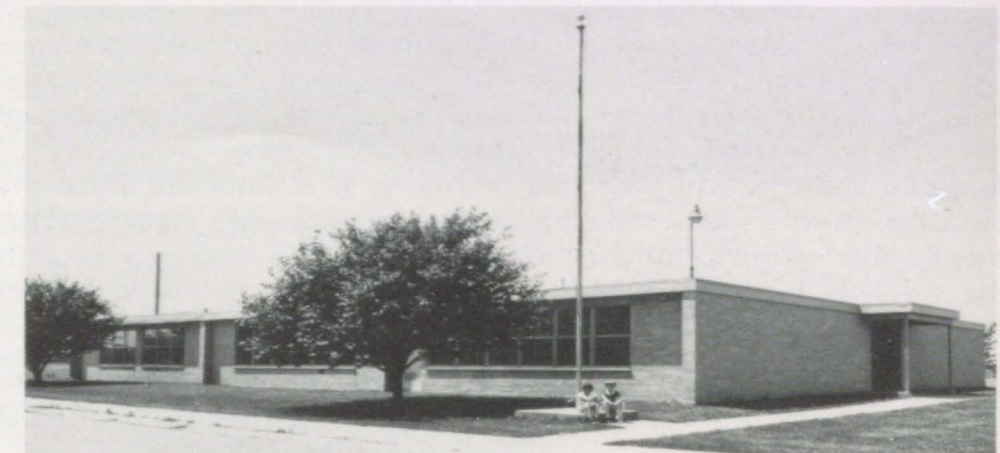
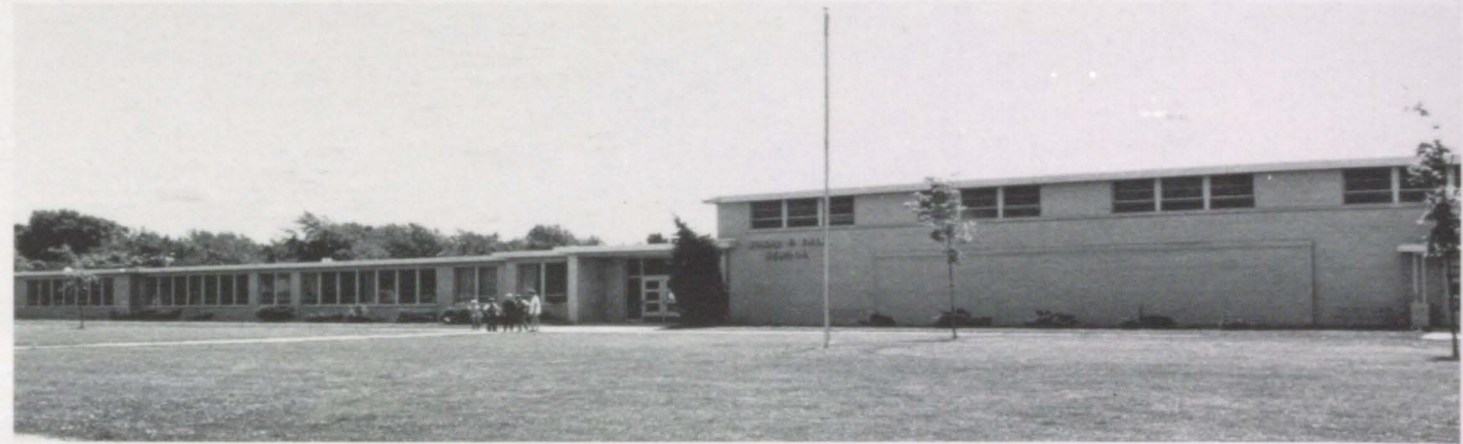
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SCHOOLS



Top: Merrillville High art class
Middle: Jonas Saulk School
Above right: St. Andrew and
Joan of Arc Elementary School
Above: Iddings School

tutorial mini development lab at the high school while courses conducted through Purdue University and broadcast over WBAA, West Lafayette, are also available to students.

Recently, the schools initiated a program for gifted students. The new program for grades three to six uses community mentors to assist gifted students in exploring their interests. Accelerated



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programs are also available in the high school.

Meeting the challenges of a modern world, the schools introduced a drug training program using the "self-esteem" approach. Begun at the primary level, program development continues to the higher grades.

Unique educational entertainment is featured at the Merrillville

Clockwise from top: Pierce Jr. High School; Sts. Peter and Paul Grade School; Biology class at Andean

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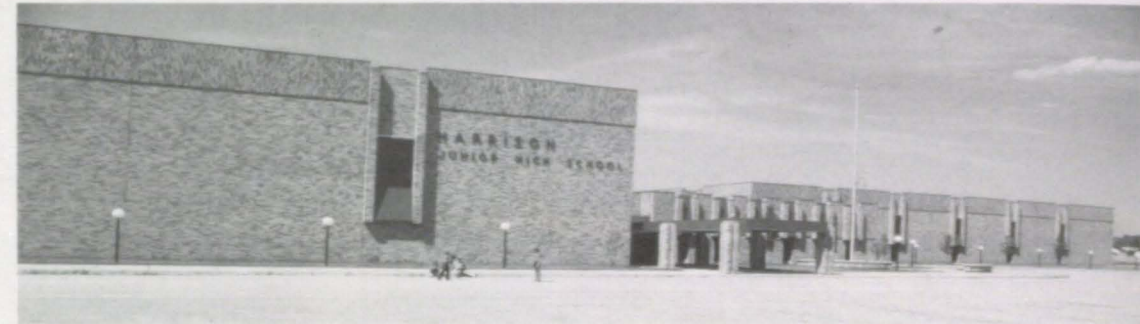
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Clockwise from below: Harrison Jr. High; Home economics and band session at Andean



Community Planetarium located in Pierce Junior High. In addition to school activities planned around the Spitz 512 Projector that casts a field of over 2000 stars upon a dome 32 feet in diameter, the planetarium presents Merrillville Space Theatre, offering public and student shows on timely events in astronomy.

The school corporation's Reinhart Auditorium is site of annual band, choral and orchestra concerts and the summer home of the Ross Summer Music Theatre. Hundreds of youngsters are involved each year in performing the popular productions.

Two private schools are also available in Merrillville, including coeducational Andean High School. Serving the Gary Diocese, the school offers a top-flight college preparatory program and business and general education classes.

Andean takes pride that a majority of its students are able to acquire scholarships. It pursues a course of educating the whole person.

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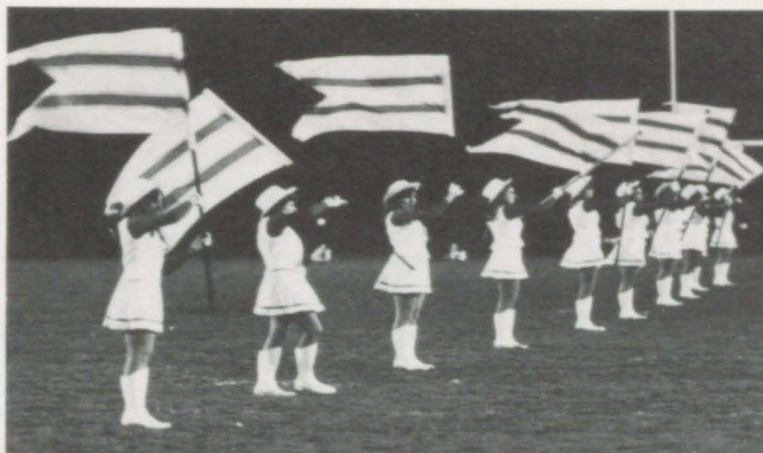


Sports include football, wrestling, track, volleyball, cross-country, baseball, tennis, basketball and golf.

Extra curricular activities include drama, yearbook, newspaper, photography, liturgy, the youth association for the retarded, missions, the National Honor Society and math, science and language clubs.

Also a part of the community is Sts. Peter and Paul School providing a broad educational program for elementary students.

Offering educational opportunities in a religious setting is the Hammond Baptist Schools in nearby Schererville.



Clockwise from above: Andean art instruction; Friendly annual rivalry—Merrillville High versus Andean High; Performance at halftime



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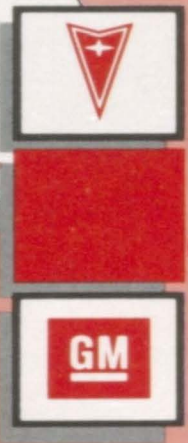
OFFERING VARIETY

HIGHER EDUCATION



*Above: William E. Urschel Hall,
the new home for the College
of Business Administration at
Valparaiso University*

The Merrillville Adult and Continuing Education program is representative of the excellent higher educational opportunities available in the area. Geared to self improvement, leisure-time activities, self-enrichment and job improvement, this highly rated program presents more than 200 course offerings like typing, welding, medical terminology, ballroom dancing, quilting, basic computer programming, photography, nature art and even italic handwriting and calligraphy.



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*Above: Smidt Building at Calumet
College*

HIGHER EDUCATION

Self-sustaining, the program is a school without boundaries welcoming residents from throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition to government, English and math to complete high school requirements and preparatory classes for college, a walk-in day learning center, basic education for adults and diploma (G.E.D.) preparation and testing are among expanded programs.

Valparaiso University, the nation's largest Lutheran affiliated university, is a few miles from Merrillville. It offers 65 academic programs.

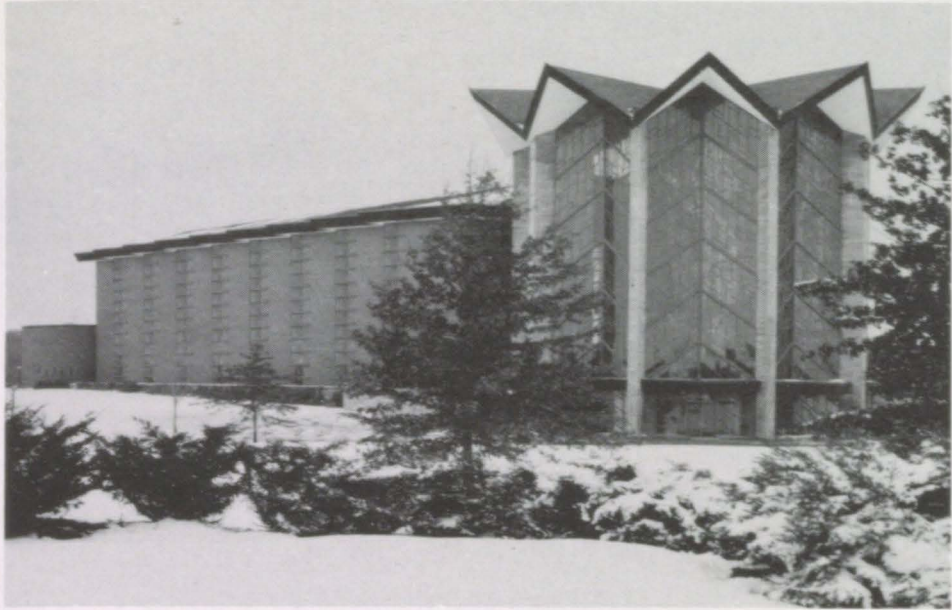
Its new multi-million dollar business administration complex houses the College of Business which alone offers some 70 courses in economics, marketing, finance and accounting.

The College of Arts and Sciences offers many options such as the mini-term, independent study and course intensification which allows a student to take on a special project for extra credit. The Sloan Galleries with exhibitions by noted artists, performances by the Indianapolis Symphony, full-mounted opera productions and musicals.

Indiana University Northwest in Gary is a four-year college, one of eight campuses comprising the Indiana University system. Its academic programs feature 700 sections offered in divisions such as allied health, arts and sciences, business, continuing studies, general and technical studies and medical and dental education. In addition to undergraduate certificate programs in accounting, dental and laboratory assisting and transportation and traffic, associate degree programs are also available.

Calumet College in neighboring Hammond, offers a four year baccalaureate degree program, two year associate degree courses and one year certificates in more than 25 fields of study. Its liberal arts program offers the opportunity for a variety of academic concentrations including professional training.

Purdue University Calumet in Hammond offers a wide range of educational opportunities. Major studies are concentrated in



Above: Chapel of the Resurrection, Valparaiso University

Above right: New Library/Conference Center at Indiana University Northwest in Gary

schools for science and nursing, humanities, education and social sciences, general studies and community services. The university also offers programs in environmental education, economics, womens studies, gerontology and has a graduate school.

Students from 49 of the 50 states attend Hyles-Anderson College based in Schererville. A Bible college, Hyles-Anderson is owned and operated by the First Baptist Church of Hammond. Concentrated studies in religion train students basically for the ministry.

Indiana Vocational Technical College in Gary presents a wide variety of business and trade courses geared to the awarding of associate degrees and technical certificates. Its medical division is based in Westville.

Merrillville residents can also easily reach such notable educational complexes as St. Joseph College in Rensselaer; Purdue University at Lafayette; and Notre Dame in South Bend.



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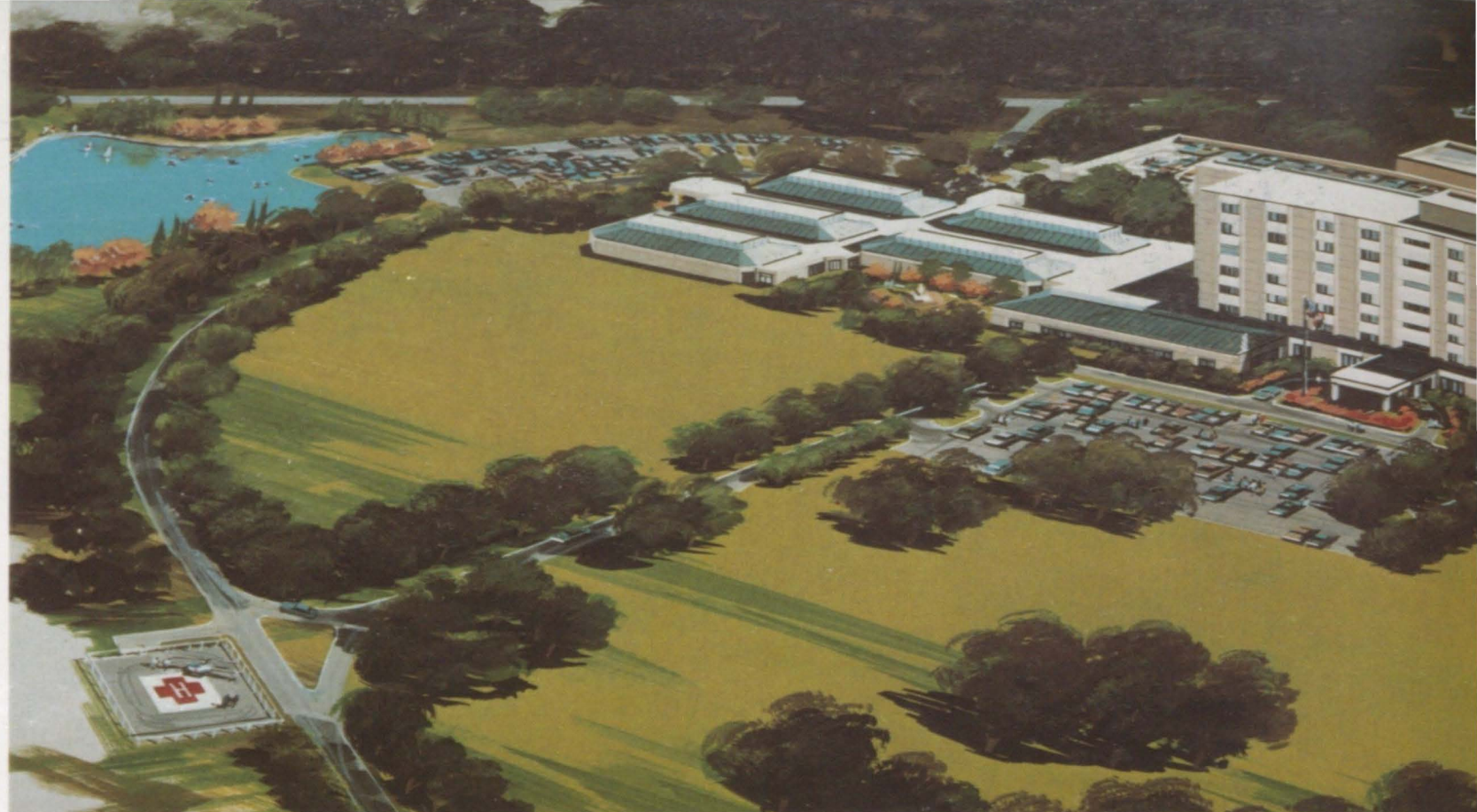
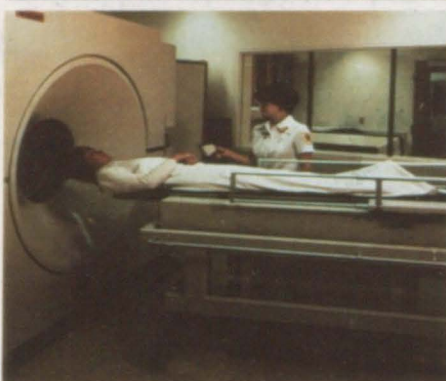
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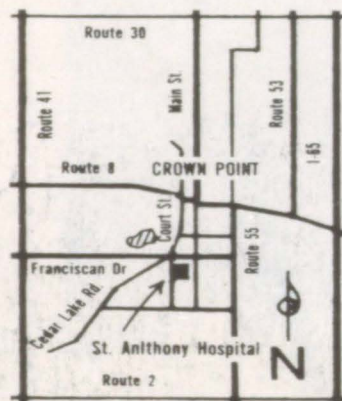
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As a leader in the field of cardiac treatment, St. Anthony Medical Center offers total care of heart patients including open heart surgery, cardiac rehabilitation and complete diagnostic studies. Other specialized areas of treatment include Hemodialysis, Oncology, Nuclear Medicine, Physical Rehabilitation, to name a few.

A 280 bed hospital with more than 1,000 employees, St. Anthony Medical Center is the largest employer in the South Lake County area. In addition to its designation as a primary, secondary and tertiary care medical center, St. Anthony Medical Center provides an Out-patient Hospice Program for the care and counseling of all terminal patients.



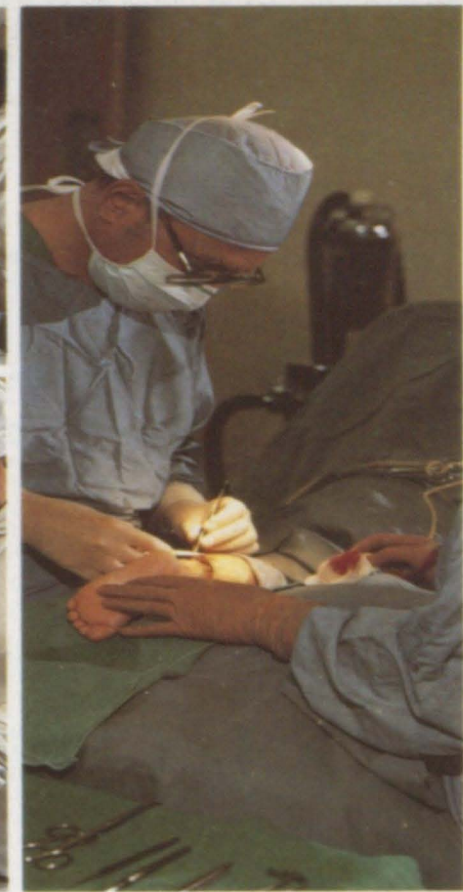
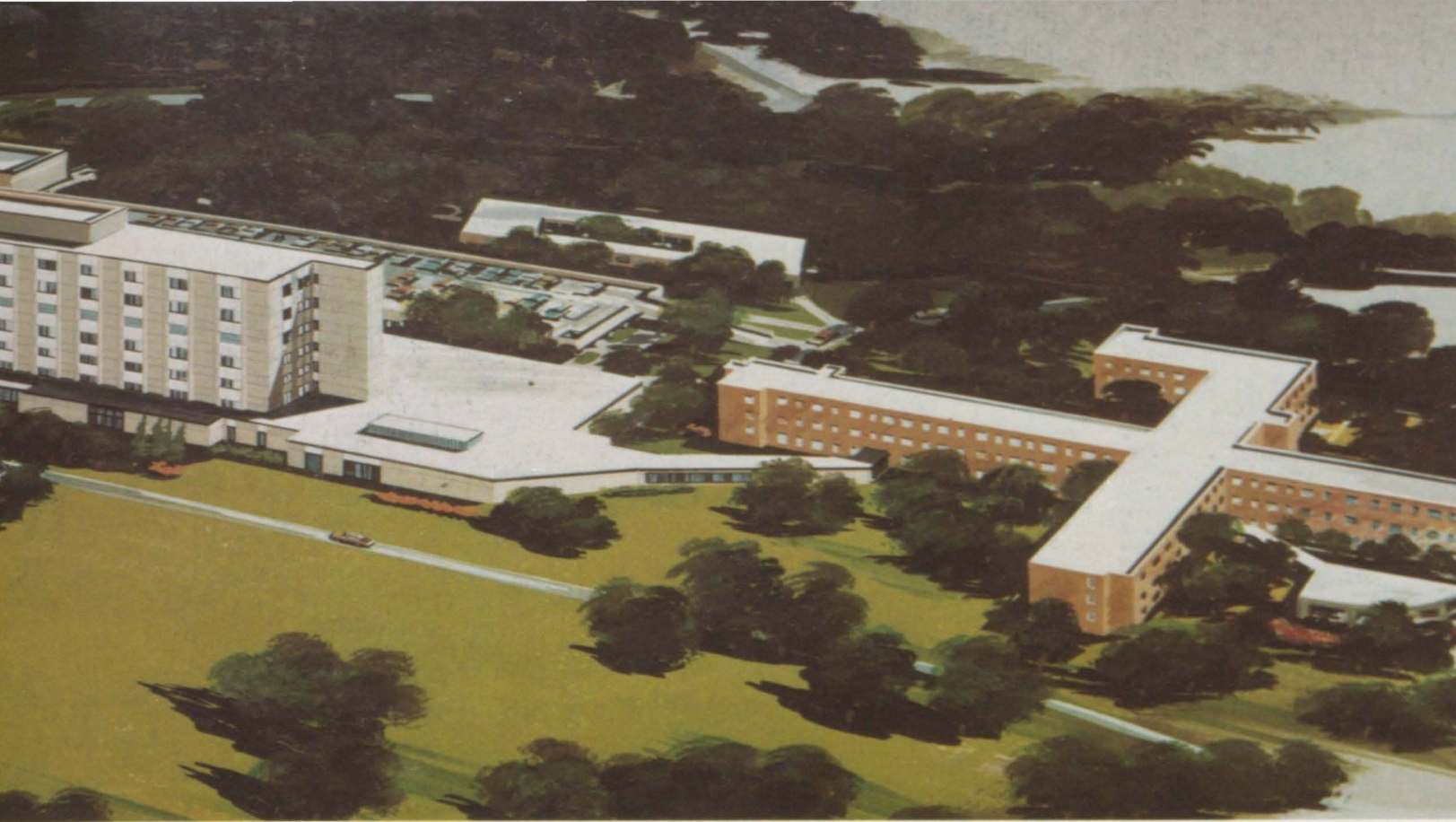
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NAMES TELL THE TALE

H I S T O R Y

Merrillville boasts a long and rich history, though the town did not officially exist until incorporated in late 1971. Long before fur traders arrived in the area at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, peace-loving Pottawatomie Indians, a nation of hunters and fishermen, were enjoying the natural riches of the dense forests and gently rolling terrain of this Great Lakes region.

As early as 1834, a ceremonial clearing in the woods was called McGwinn's Village after one of the hardy frontiersmen who camped there. However, this proved to be only the first of the area's many names. In 1835, Jeremiah Wiggins arrived. His famed "gift of gab" and intriguing trinkets soon persuaded the Indians that Wiggins was staying and the area was named Wiggins Point.

Time saw Wiggins Point become a popular stop for wagon trains bound for Chicago, Joliet and Kankakee, Illinois. As the nation expanded its western boundaries, 16 trails radiated in all directions from the little settlement. Stores, hotels, liveries and other businesses supporting the busy wagon and coach trade began to spring up. Notable was the Old California Exchange Hotel, built in 1842, on the stage route established along the old

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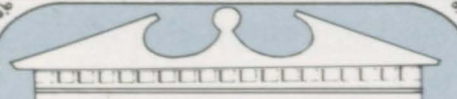
Sauk Trail (73rd Avenue) from Ft. Dearborn (Chicago) to Crown Point.

When Wiggins died in 1838, local residents decided the name Centreville was a more dignified title for the thriving settlement, only to change it later to Merrillville in honor of William and Dudley Merrill, successful brothers who had a great impact on the town's early growth. In fact, Dudley Merrill, recognizing the value of owning property along the Sauk Trail, purchased land and created the town's first subdivision.

Merrillville remained the community's name until the town and its neighboring settlements—Deep River, Ross, Turkey Creek, Ainsworth, Lottaville and Rexville—organized collectively under the central government of Ross Township. Thus, the area remained for more than 125 years until the town was formed with the name Merrillville.

Cataloguing and researching the many stories that compose Merrillville's colorful history, the Ross Township Historical Society sponsored a book relating the town's past through a collection of stories and pictures of the families and homes of Ross Township. The historical society also operates a museum in John Wood's Mill along Deep River east of the town, refurbished by the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department.

Opposite page: John Wood's Mill
along Deep River
Left: 100-year-old Sts. Peter and Paul
Church



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Merrillville's is a story of business success. Within a few short years it has emerged as a major center of business in the Chicago metropolitan area. Attracting giants of the business world and expanding smaller companies, Merrillville is considered a front-runner in business growth.

It is the community's superior system of linkage to markets throughout the nation, its ideal location near but not a part of Chicago and a ready pool of skilled labor that have made it a leader in business and light industrial growth.

And while the past has been filled with rapid growth, the future promises a still greater emergence in the business world.

An active Merrillville Chamber of Commerce, an involved

A STORY OF SUCCESS

B U S I N E S S



Opposite page: Gary National Bank Center Above: Twin Towers Complex

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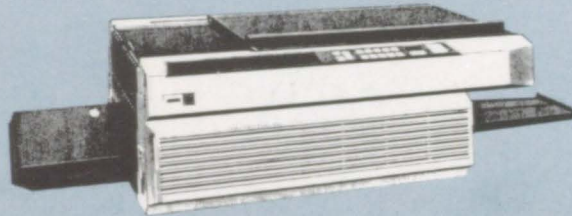
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*Above: A.G. Edwards & Sons, one of
the Midwest's largest brokerage firms*

Merrillville Economic Development Commission and other organizations are anxious to help promote growth.

Merrillville offers thousands of square feet of prime office space; and developers are ready to construct tailored facilities for new business.

Nine special industrial parks have sites available and property can be developed in numerous other locations.

Also encouraging growth is a local government with a cooperative planning department and zoning requirements designed to enhance new development.

The community has worked hard at establishing a climate creating a careful balance between desired business and industrial growth and preservation of its suburban image.

Business having found a home in Merrillville is an example of the modern, pleasing blend being encouraged.

Whiteco Industries, a diversified international operation has erected twin office towers at the community's main intersection



*Left: One of Merrillville's active commercial areas
Below: Chapel Square professional building*



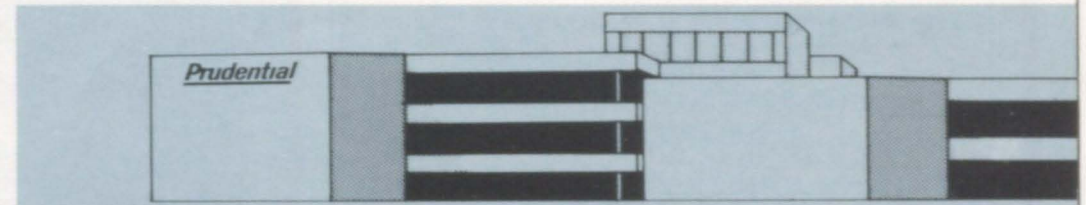
with Interstate 65. It has also invested locally by development of a multi-million dollar hotel-theatre-convention complex and construction of other facilities.

Prudential Insurance Company's new mid-America operations center, a \$13 million complex, occupies a 43-acre park-like site in Merrillville. The company, recognizing the attractiveness of Merrillville's suburban setting, relocated a major part of its corporate operations from Chicago to the developing community.

Another dynamic architectural plus to Merrillville's skyline is the 200,000 square foot office center of the area's largest financial institution. With an entrance atrium and lobby lit by a transparent cascade of windows, this massive structure is a stunning landmark.

Among other firms electing to make Merrillville headquarters are the Artim Transportation System, Inc., a multi-state company, with a 70,000 square foot office facility; and Carpetland, a major multi-state carpeting retailer.

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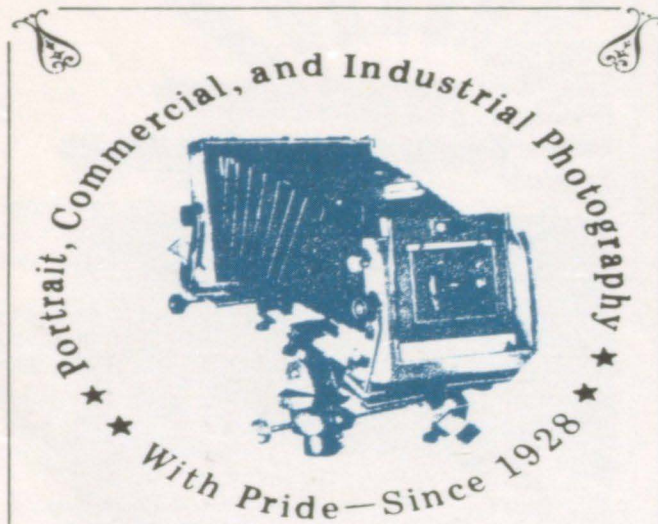
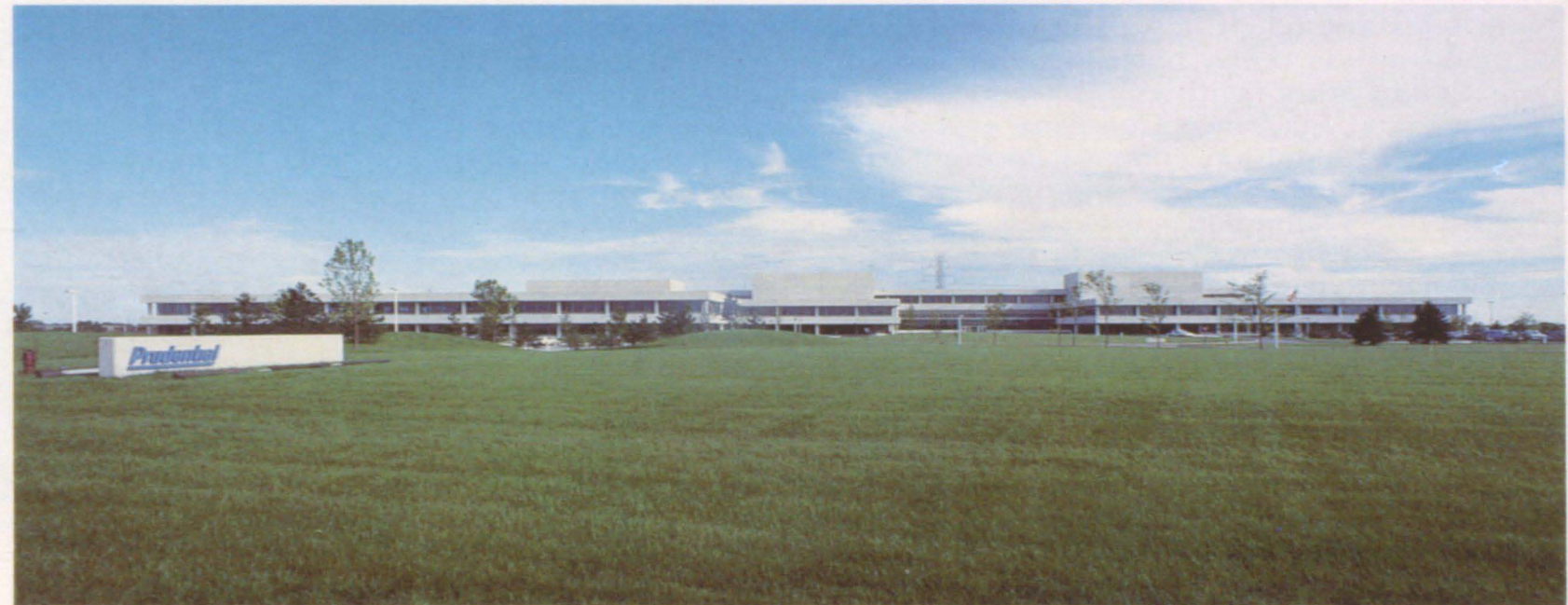


Prudential

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B U S I N E S S

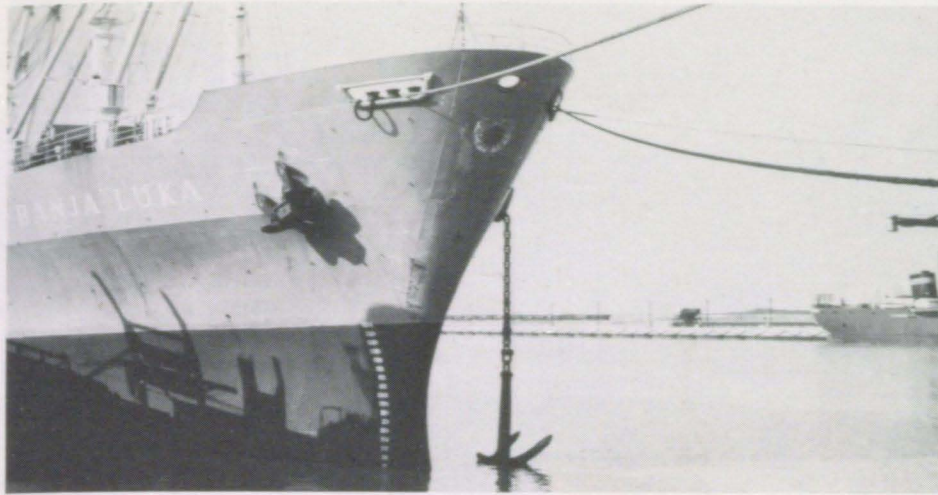
Clockwise from right: Artim Transportation System, Inc. headquarters; Prudential Insurance Company's Mid-America operations center; Merrillville Bank and Trust



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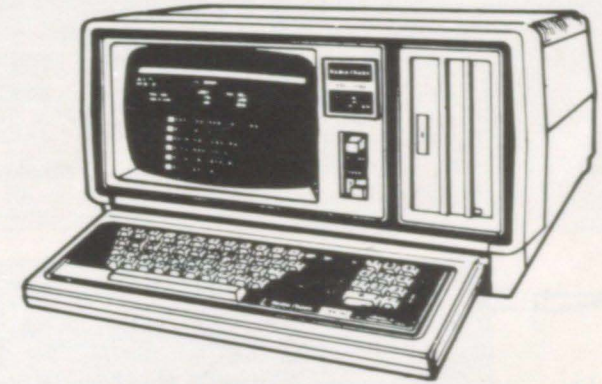
Reflecting the community's concern with esthetics, office parks such as Westlake Plaza, Broadfield, Executive Park, Environ Center and Commerce Park have established strict architectural and landscaping standards. Improved industrial and office parks are ready for development while other acreage is zoned for light industry.

Supporting development is a host of area financial institutions offering a broad range of financial services.

Clockwise from above: Spangler and Jennings professional offices; Prime shipping facilities are available at the Port of Indiana; View from atop the Gary National Bank Building

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Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox

A WARM WELCOME CHURCHES

The warmth of religious relationships plays a vital role in the lives of Merrillville residents. Twenty-five churches representing 11 denominations extend a friendly welcome to worship. But more than this, the churches offer programs providing activity opportunities for the entire family.

Among denominations represented in the community are churches of the Assembly of God, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Lutheran, United Methodist, Nazarene, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ.

The churches are located in facilities offering a wide range of use. From historic settings to sleek, modern designs, the churches reflect the diversity of the community.

Notable is the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, the lone Greek Orthodox cathedral in Indiana. Dominating the impressive structure is a 100-foot-diameter rotunda. Its dome and inner walls are covered with mosaics.

In keeping with the community's trend of growth, several congregations have purchased land and plan new church facilities.

Centers of worship for all major faiths can be found in the area and the welcome is always warm, typical of life in this sensitive community.

Below: Merrillville United Methodist Church

Middle: Descent of The Holy Ghost Romanian Orthodox Church

Bottom: Emmanuel Lutheran Church





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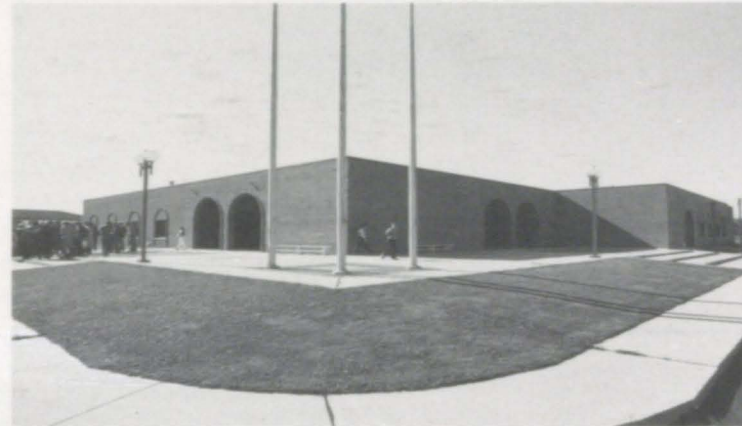
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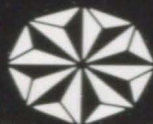
*Clockwise from right: Our Lady
of Consolation Church; St. Joan of
Arc Church; St. Elijah Serbian
Orthodox Church*

CHURCHES



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COMPLETE CARE

M E D I C A L

Unlike many developing communities, Merrillville is fortunate to have the finest in health care facilities for its residents. The Southlake Campus of the Methodist Hospital meets the growing medical needs of the area's populace. At the hospital's 109-acre site in Merrillville there are 375 beds, including facilities for obstetrical and new-born services, outpatient department, nuclear and renal dialysis programs.

The hospital's unique architectural design features an inner core for the working staff and an outer core for visitors allowing a higher degree of sterility for patients.

An acute care, general medical facility, the hospital is operated by Methodist Hospital of Gary, a multi-institutional, regional health care system serving Northwest Indiana.

A regional cancer treatment center, the hospital offers the latest in radiographic technology including a linear accelerator for therapy. With an intermediate cardiac care facility, the hospital has sibling visitation, a program allowing youngsters to visit mother and new baby, obstetric tours for expectant parents and live-in care for new babies.

In addition to serving as the emergency services coordinating center for a seven-county area, the hospital system is the most ad-



Top: Ross Clinic x-ray facilities

Above: St. Anthony Medical Center Nursery



Above: Southlake Campus of the Methodist Hospital ultra-sound facility

vanced teaching hospital in the region. It is the regional training center for mobile intensive care trainees for a five-county area.

In neighboring Crown Point, the St. Anthony Medical Center is a major health care facility with 450 beds. Located on an 80-acre tract, plans call for expansion of the center to include a medical arts doctors building, a supervised apartment building and the enlargement of the St. Anthony Home, a convalescent and health care facility for senior citizens.

Operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, St. Anthony Medical Center is noted for its emergency unit featuring Poison-dex equipment providing life-saving information within seconds for accidental poisoning or drug overdose patients.

Medical and health care services in the Merrillville area are extensive. Modern medical complexes throughout the community house physicians practicing numerous medical disciplines and specialties.

The Ross Clinic is the prime center of physicians in the community. Twenty-nine doctors, including nine in family practice, provide a wide range of medical care. Emergency and minor surgical services are available at the clinic, as is eye care.

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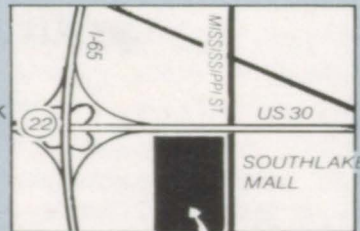
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Ross Care Center in Merrillville is typical of residence centers for senior citizens operating in the area. It offers a wide range of activities and care for seniors.

*Clockwise from below: Emergency at
St. Anthonys; Patient care at
Southlake Methodist; Blood
pressure tested at Ross Clinic*





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M E D I C A L

*Clockwise from right: C.A.T. Scan
 facility at Northlake Campus of the Methodist
 Hospital; Southlake Mental Health Center; Lake
 County Convalescent Home*





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Right: Lake County Public Library offers a wealth of research material

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The people of Merrillville have it all when it comes to amusements and cultural pursuits. Ranging from high school plays to major stars of the professional entertainment world, Merrillville has an offering of something for everyone's enjoyment.

The nationally prominent Holiday Star Theatre is the brightest addition to the Midwest's entertainment life.

With seating for 3,300, the \$8 million theatre features unobstructed viewing and a thrust stage taking entertainers into the audience.

The greats of the entertainment world, ranging from Kenny Rogers to Henry Mancini and Donna Summer, have been among stars appearing in Merrillville. The theatre also features stage productions, including lavish musicals and stark drama.

Also a major part of Merrillville's cultural experience is the Northwest Indiana Symphony. For more than 40 years it has offered renowned leaders of the fine arts in an annual series of classical concerts, many held at Merrillville High School.



Above: The nationally prominent Holiday Star Theatre

A division of the symphony, the Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra also presents an annual winter concert.

Students at Merrillville and Andean high schools prepare seasonal plays and concerts; and an adult theatre group provides entertainment opportunities during summer months.

Unique to Northwest Indiana is a planetarium at Pierce Junior High School where programs for the entire family are provided.

And a gem seldom found in communities Merrillville's size is a regional reference library offering a wealth of materials and services.

The research facility serves as headquarters for 13 branches of the Lake County Public Library. Merrillville has a community branch of the library.

Many activities to enhance living can be found at all times of the year in Merrillville.

Summer brings a series of nationally recognized ethnic festivals. Foods and entertainment atune to the theme of the festivals is a treat for thousands who frequent the once-a-year extravaganzas.

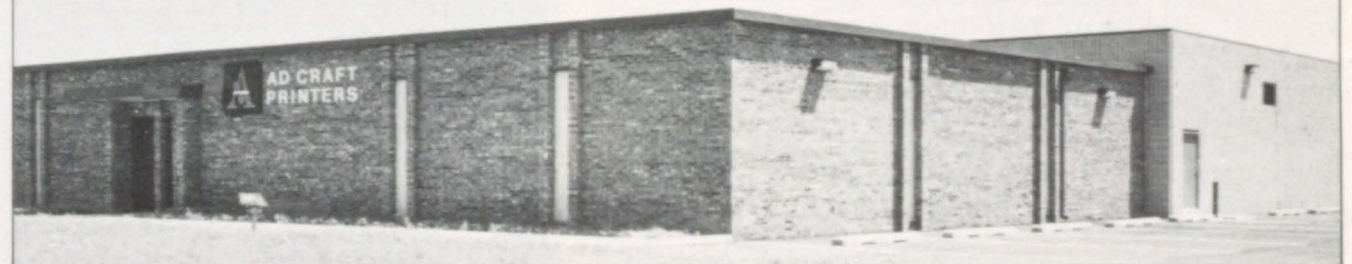


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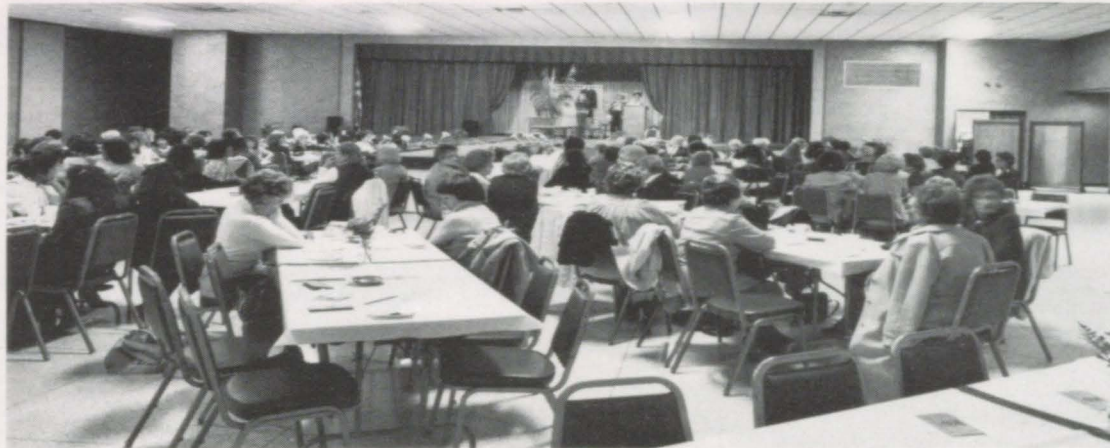
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Above: Stage production of "Bye Bye Birdie" at Merrillville High School

C U L T U R E



*Top: Renowned Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra
Above: One of many stage shows at Southlake Mall
Left: A local fashion show*

Parades, talent shows, outdoor concerts and more are a part of life in active Merrillville.

And proximity to Chicago also puts that city's array of museums, concert halls, theatres, zoos, restaurants and sports arenas within an easy drive for Merrillville residents.

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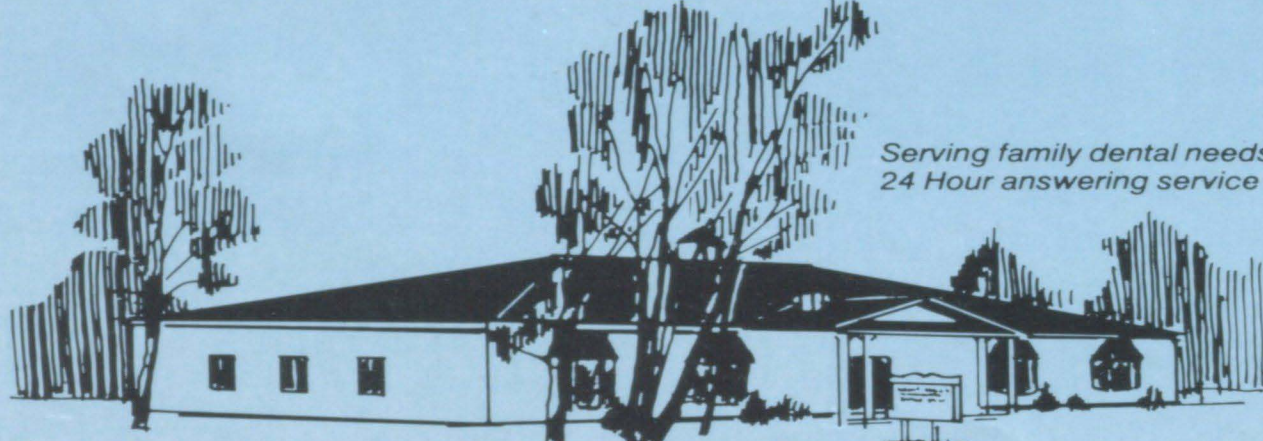
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*Above: Holiday Star Theatre seats 3,300
Left and below: Fine cuisine
and elegant atmosphere in
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A night out in Merrillville is a special occasion for any reason. Whether for dinner or a snack, to watch a movie or a stage play, Merrillville has an unusually broad offering of night life. More than 100 restaurants cater to diners with menus including anything from Athenian Chicken to deep dish pizza.

Surroundings range from plush elegance to a simple setting in which to dine.

Three theatres offering as many as eight movies are available from which to select a night away's entertainment. Additional theatres are also planned in the community.

The Holiday Star Theatre offers the best in professional entertainment, with stars ranging from Donna Summer to the Mills Brothers.

Intimate lounges can also be found at night in Merrillville. Entertainment runs the gamut from ethnic music, jazz, rock 'n roll to the relaxed strains of an organ.



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Since Merrillville's incorporation in 1971, government has concentrated on providing good services for a growing community; and at the same time planning and shaping the town's future. Governed by a town form of government, Merrillville has a town board president elected annually from seven trustees elected every four years from each of seven wards. The board members meet monthly. The town is also served by an elected clerk-treasurer.

A professional staff works full-time to advance pleasing and efficient government.

Local officials are a prime example of "making every penny count." The ability to operate and expand municipal services during a time of "tax freeze" has shown the government is responsive to current and anticipated needs.

Receiving its water supply from Lake Michigan through the Gary-Hobart Water Company, Merrillville is assured an ample supply of water to meet its future needs. Electricity and natural gas are provided the town by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, having its corporate headquarters in nearby Hammond.



The major portion of the town is served by the Merrillville Conservancy District, though there are seven independent sanitary systems operating in the community. A part of utility facilities expansion is a \$12 million project of the MCD to serve growth sectors in the town.

Merrillville's modern police force puts officers in their own patrol cars providing round-the-clock visibility and security. An innovative program trains detectives in "hypnosis investigation," making them the first in Lake County to use it. The department developed a new domestic intervention program in cooperation with the Southlake Center for Mental Health. Policemen also conduct a bicycle safety program, register bikes on a daily basis and give talks on safety to students.

The Ross Township Fire Service is composed of three member departments: Merrillville, Independence Hill and Ainsworth-Deep River. There are four fire stations operated by the service. Twenty-four hours a day, more than 140 trained volunteers man modern equipment. As a part of its fire prevention bureau, the service offers fire prevention training in local schools and works



Opposite page: The Merrillville area police and fire departments are professionally trained and well-equipped

Top: Town board meeting

Above: Merrillville Clerk-Treasurer



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GOVERNMENT

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*Right: Merrillville's original
fire station*

*Below: Merrillville's ample police
force at regular review*



with the town's plan commission in reviewing plans for new construction.

Merrillville's Emergency Medical Service is on call 24-hours-a-day. Linked to hospitals in Merrillville, Hobart and Crown Point, two paramedics occupy each ambulance answering a call. The service also conducts blood pressure screening, CPR classes and provides disaster planning for the community.

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Above: Merrillville Town Hall
Left: Merrillville Post Office

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ENJOYING NATURE

T H E D U N E S



Rippled dunes yield to the powers of the wind. Mighty waves thunder down Lake Michigan's length to wash white sandy beaches. The red magic of a sunset reflects on blue water. A prickly-pear cactus nestles in a sandy nook with iris and orchids. All are but a small part of the many facets of nature displayed at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore virtually at Merrillville's doorstep.

Added to the national park system in 1966 to preserve the majestic sand dunes, both moving and fixed, and the fine white sandy beaches along Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline, the National Lakeshore is a magnificent recreational link in the fine system of state parks bordering the southern end of the lake including the nearby Indiana Dunes State Park.

The West Beach is the major recreation area in the national park with a bath house and swimming facilities. More than 15 miles of hiking trails take the visitor around Cowles and Pinhook Bogs. Mt. Baldy, the park's largest dune rising 135 feet above the lake, is also a prime tourist attraction. Horseback riding follows the Ly-co-ki-we Trail, an official trail, which begins in the 14,000 year-old sand dunes and traverses wet lowlands, once the bottom of a glacial lake. Other activities include fishing, picnicking and boating.

The Indiana Dunes State Park is famous for its three miles of fine beach. Here can be found facilities for hiking, fishing, camping, swimming and cross country skiing. A nature center and a naturalist service are also available.

The Dunes is a delightful year-round refuge for nature lovers whether they are wildlife observers, sportsmen, environmentalists or botanists. From the constantly shifting sand dunes to the wild array of springtime flowers, the scenic beauty can be both awesome and delightful. Plants and trees such as the sassafras and sour gum found mostly in the semitropics, grow next to trees seen only in the northern climates creating vivid color contrasts in fall. More than 3000 varieties of plant life in the Dunes and the abundant wildlife constantly provide subjects for both painters and



OUTDOOR INDIANA MAGAZINE

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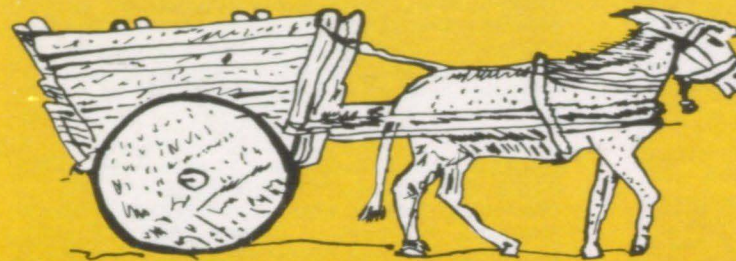
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In a friendly, cheerful and Christian atmosphere, Saint Anthony Home is a fitting residence for elderly men and women who wish to live in an adult community, where they are treated with dignity and where they can make their own decisions regarding their personal lives.

The residents are encouraged to take part in social, cultural and religious activities as often as they wish, both within the Home or those offered in the surrounding area.

Occupational Therapy Services are available to assist those patients who need to relearn the activities of daily living, as well as regain lost manual dexterity skills.

Qualified full and part-time employees assure Saint Anthony residents of quality service and assistance that alleviate the worry of everyday living. The employees are dedicated to the Christian philosophy that through their loving service to others, they serve Christ. By performing their jobs efficiently, the employees provide the residents with a clean home, tasteful and properly served meals, a dignified personal care of the infirm, and a pleasant environment.

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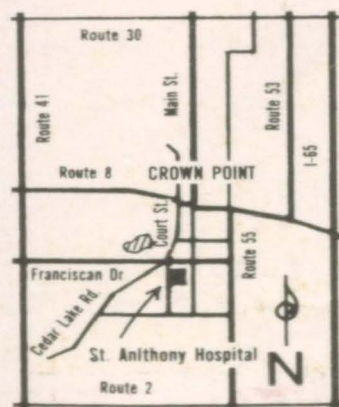
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